



ACLS LEADING EDGE FELLOWSHIP

Project:	The Global Dimension of Immigration Detention
Organization:	Freedom for Immigrants
Location:	Los Angeles, CA and Oakland, CA [Fellow will work remotely]
Stipend:	\$60,000 per year, plus health insurance and professional development funding
Start Date:	January or February 2021

ORGANIZATION DESCRIPTION

Freedom for Immigrants' highly dedicated team works to end U.S. immigration detention by monitoring human rights abuses, elevating stories, building community-based alternatives to detention, and advocating for system change. The heart of our work is community-based volunteers who visit people in detention, building relationships that have the power to change lives and systems. Currently, Freedom for Immigrants supports a network of approximately 4,500 volunteers visiting at 69 U.S.-based immigrant prisons through Freedom for Immigrants-affiliated visitation programs. Freedom for Immigrants is an award-winning non-profit whose founders have been recognized for their vision and leadership by Ashoka, Echoing Green, the Rockwood Leadership Institute, the James Irvine Leadership Awards, and the John F. Kennedy New Frontier Award. To learn more about Freedom for Immigrants, visit <https://www.freedomforimmigrants.org/>.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Covid-19 pandemic has brought public health sharply into focus, and it has exposed how immigration detention is a global issue. Since March 2020, Freedom for Immigrants has been working with partners in the United Kingdom, Spain, and India to expose how our immigration detention systems are intertwined.

The Leading Edge Fellow will take this work to the next level, representing Freedom for Immigrants in international fora on the topic of immigration detention and undertaking three research projects over the course of the fellowship. The fellowship tenure is 12 consecutive months, with an expected time commitment of approximately 40 hours per week.

Responsibilities and tasks:

- The fellow's first research project will be a short 5-10 page report that highlights a particular issue as part of our biweekly COVID reports (see <https://www.freedomforimmigrants.org/covid19>). We will include a section in this report that speaks to how this issue plays out in countries beyond the United States. This project will help orient the fellow in our research methodologies and past work. We plan to publish it in late March on the one-year anniversary of the first COVID cases in immigration detention.
- The second research project will be a follow-up to our 2017 report, [*Immigration Detention in the Media*](#), which was the first comprehensive report on how immigration detention was featured in

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U.S. media under the Obama administration. This follow-up report will expand upon the first report to include a section on how immigration detention has been featured in major international newspapers during the pandemic, perhaps narrowing in on a few key countries such as Canada and Mexico, as well as how the term “alternatives to detention” has been featured in the news domestically and abroad. We would hope that this report can be used as a tool to start changing the narrative of immigration detention internationally.

- The topic of the third research project will be developed in partnership with the fellow, and may include a partnership with some international organizations with which Freedom for Immigrants is currently in communication. It may have an international human rights monitoring component, looking at how countries across the globe have responded to the pandemic in their immigration detention system.

Qualifications:

- PhD in any field of the humanistic social sciences, so long as the applicant's research contributes to the scholarship and understanding of religion, theology, or ethics. Read more about eligible fields [here](#).
- Strong research skills with ability to locate appropriate databases and comb through large amounts of data
- Ability to communicate clearly and effectively, in oral and written form
- Experience in or desire to speak on panels or on webinars
- Experience engaging with stakeholders in politically sensitive and culturally diverse settings
- Ability to perform job duties with high degree of initiative, professionalism, and solution-oriented mindset
- Sense of humor, flexible nature, and willingness to support others in team environment

Preferred:

- Past work, volunteer, or internship experience in a decentralized start-up nonprofit desirable but not expected
- Past work, volunteer, research, or internship experience in the field of immigrant rights, refugee resettlement, or other related human rights issues desirable but not expected
- Ability to read, write, and converse in another language, preferably Spanish, Arabic, and/or French
- We strongly encourage people who have been directly impacted by immigration detention and/or the mass incarceration system to apply

APPLICATIONS

- Information on the Leading Edge Fellowship Program: <https://www.acls.org/Competitions-and-Deadlines/Leading-Edge-Fellowships>
- All applications must be submitted through the ACLS Online Fellowship Application System (ofa.acls.org)
- Application deadline: 9pm EST, November 2, 2020

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